



Kent School District Levy Election February 9, 2010

As principal of Meeker Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to share information about Kent School District's upcoming levy measures. These two proposals, which require your approval as a voter, are being presented for the February 9, 2010 election. I would like to explain what these levies provide for students in our district.

These two levies are not new taxes. They replace the 4-year levies that were approved in 2006 and expire at the end of 2010.

Proposition 1: Replacement School Programs and Operations Levy

This 4-year **replacement** levy provides 20% of the district's annual operational revenue. It bridges the gap between state funding and community expectations and pays for supplies, services, and approximately **one in five** employees.

The services and programs provided by these staff include:

- Transportation services.
- Smaller elementary class sizes.
- Extra help to address larger class sizes in middle and high schools.
- Additional classroom supplies.
- Music and drama programs.
- Extracurricular programs such as athletics.
- Safety officers in our schools.
- Clean, healthy, and well-maintained schools and classrooms.

Proposition 2: Replacement Technology Levy

This 4-year **replacement** levy allows Kent School District to continue paying the cost of maintaining technology tools used by our students and teachers on a daily basis. The levy allows us to maintain our technology program, including the replacement of all student and teacher computers as they become outdated. These levy funds pay for technology tools necessary to ensure our students have the 21st century skills necessary for current and future success. This \$20 million levy will be collected over four years (\$5M per year).

At Meeker, this **replacement levy** will maintain current equipment including:

- Student computers for classrooms and libraries.
- Multi-media stations—one in every classroom.
 - Used by teachers and students, each station includes:
 - Multimedia projector
 - Document camera
 - DVD player
 - Interactive white board
- Classroom computers for teacher use.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pelzel

***For more information, please visit the
KSD website: www.kentschooldistrict.org***



Season Two Sports

Boys Basketball (7th & 8th)

Coaches: 8th- Chance Wilton; 7th- Brad Pizzalato

(3:45 start time)

Wednesday, January 6	Away @ Northwood
Friday, January 8	Home vs. Tahoma Blue
Monday, January 11	Home vs. Tahoma Blue-LP
Tuesday, January 12	Away @ Mill Creek
Thursday, January 14	Home vs. Cedar Heights
Wednesday, January 20	Away @ Mattson

Tahoma games are played at Tahoma MS (216th St-Maple Valley)

Gymnastics (7th & 8th)

Coaches: Head Coach-Keely Hogan; Asst. Coach-Annette Wilton

(4:00 start time)

Thursday, Jan. 7	Home vs. Mattson
Wednesday, Jan. 13	Away @ Mill Creek
Friday, Jan. 15	Away @ Mattson-Home Team (JV) Meet
Wednesday, Jan. 20	Away @ Cedar Heights-Varsity League Meet

Tahoma games are played at Tahoma MS (216th St-Maple Valley)



MEEKER & DISTRICT NEWS

Meeker Dance Team

Show your school spirit at the following competitions:

Saturday, January 9 at Kentlake High School

Saturday, January 30 at Kentridge High School

Fun Run

A special thanks to Rainier Sub Shop and Mrs. Johnson's Donuts (at 330 Rainier Ave S) for supplying the rewards for the Fun Run winning homeroom (Mr. Ramirez)!

Panther Lake Elementary School invites you to join them at their
Community Open House.

Tour the Building.
Meet the Architects and School Staff.

Saturday, January 9th, 2009
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Panther Lake Elementary School
10200 SE 216th Street
Kent, WA 98031

Weather/Emergencies

Please review and save this schedule to refer to when weather or an emergency may cause school hours and bus route service to be changed. **Do not call the schools, radio, or television stations!**

Listen to Radio/Television Messages

- ◆ **No Announcement**-Schools are on regular schedule with normal bus service.
- ◆ **Limited Bus Transportation**-Alone or in conjunction with other messages, means that students in predestinated areas which are frequently impassable during inclement weather will be picked up and dropped off at alternate locations.
- ◆ **School Closed**-All schools closed for one day and all school-related activities canceled.
- ◆ **School Open-X Hours Late**-States # of hours late (usually 1 to 2). Dismissal will be at regular time unless announcement states otherwise.
- ◆ **School Open-No Transportation**-Schools will be opened and dismissed at the regular time, but NO transportation service will be provided. Students will be expected to attend classes.
- ◆ **School Open-Bus Service Limited Due to Road Restrictions**-Weight restrictions due to thawing of frozen roads may cause cancellation of some services. Students will be expected to attend classes.
- ◆ **School will Dismiss-X Hours Early**-This message is for snow or other conditions which may develop during the school day requiring early dismissal. This announcement will state if regular or limited stops are to be used.

The following radio and television stations announce school information frequently:

<u>AM RADIO</u>		<u>FM RADIO</u>		<u>TELEVISION</u>	
KIRO	710	KLSY	92.5	KOMO	CH.4
KIXI	880	KMPS	94.1	KING	CH. 5
KOMO	1000	KUOW	94.5	KIRO	CH. 7
KRPM	1090	KYCW	96.5		
KLAY	1180	KBSG	97.3		
KRKO	1380	KMTT	103.7		

School emergency schedules may also be accessed on the Internet through the Public School Emergency Communication System at schoolreport.org.

In extreme emergencies , listen to civil-defense radio bands 640 or 1240 AM.



DISTRICT NEWS

January—National School Board Recognition Month!

The Kent School District Board of Directors is comprised of five members elected by voters in the district. All directors volunteer countless hours of personal time to ensure that students are successfully prepared for their future. Their commitment to excellence has been recognized at both the state and national levels. In October 2006, the school board was awarded second place among large school districts nationwide by the Center for Digital Education and the National School Boards Association for efforts to apply information technology to encourage a more meaningful dialogue with the community, improve service delivery, and improve the quality of education. In 2006, Washington State School Directors' Association recognized the board with its Diversity Award for large school districts in 2007 and as Board of the Year for Washington State's large districts in 2009.

We appreciate our board members for their commitment to public education and dedication to the Kent School District community. All board members bring unique experiences to their respective positions. Learn more about our five dedicated board members by reading below.

Jim Berrios

District #1 Representative

Jim Berrios is legislative representative of the board. He chaired the Citizens for Kent Schools 2006 Bond and Levy campaign. Jim has also been active at Kent-Meridian, where he has served as a volunteer track and wrestling coach and served on the learning improvement team. Owners of the Golden Steer restaurant, Jim and his wife have three children who graduated from KSD. In recognition of his service, Jim received the 2006 Washington Association of School Administrators Community Recognition award for the Puget Sound Region.

Bill Boyce

District #4 Representative

Bill Boyce is the board's vice-president. Bill has been active in KSD since 1993. He served for three years on the Meridian Elementary Learning Improvement Team and two years on the Citizens' Budget Review Committee. In addition to serving as a volunteer coach for community sports teams, Bill also served as co-chair of the Citizens for Kent Schools. Most recently, Bill contributed significant time to facilitating the new superintendent selection process. Bill is married and has five children, four are KSD graduates and one is currently enrolled in KSD schools. Bill works in business process management for The Boeing Company.

Tim Clark

District #5 Representative

Elected in November 2009, Tim is newest member of the board. He was a social studies teacher in Kent School District for 12 years. After retiring in 1999, Tim worked as a Green River Community College history instructor for three years and subsequently at Highline Community College, his current employer. Tim's previous community service includes 16 years as a member of the Kent City Council. Tim is married and has two grandchildren currently attending school in our district.

Chris Davies

District #2 Representative

Chris and his wife have two elementary-aged children in the Kent School District. Chris is a Certified Public Accountant and works as the Chief Financial Officer and Controller for EES Consulting. He was a member of the Citizen's Budget Review Committee from 2004-2007 and on the 2006/07 Boundary Review Committee. He and his wife are both active with the Carriage Crest Elementary PTSA.

Debbie Straus

District #3 Representative

Debbie is the current board president. She and her husband have five children; three are KSD graduates. For the last 13 years, Debbie has been very active in PTA including leadership positions at the school, council, and regional levels, and on the PTA State Board of Directors. She also served on district committees including the Citizens Budget Review Committee and the Career & Technical Education Advisory Committees. Debbie is an information technology systems analyst for Flow International Corporation.



MEEKER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Every month, Meeker staff teams nominate students for Student of the Month by type of achievement (Academic, Most Improved, and Citizenship). The following students were nominated for December:

DECEMBER

TEAM	STUDENT	ACHIEVEMENT
SIERRA MADRES	Anna Klimova Elvis Acosta John Kamau	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
CASCADES	Jacob Allan Gordon Sturdevant Angie Mulitauaopele	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
OLYMPICS	Kimberly Zielke Levi Nelson Christine Tabila	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
ROCKIES	Amandip Dhaliwal Kayla Hayes Man Trieu	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
ALPS	Rachel Willmore Asoni Sampson Jayden Christman	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
PYRENEES	Morgan Emigholz Aaron Hammond David Yakimov	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
SISKIYOU	Tristain Sturdevant Cullen Stevens Gordon Sturdevant	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
TETONS	Courtnae Williams Oleg Arkhipchuk Heaven Hamilton	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
HIMALAYAS	Kajal Sabhaya Kyle Ralph Adam Dinius	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP
ANDES	Sterling Connell Joshua Calosso Latea Hong	ACADEMIC MOST IMPROVED CITIZENSHIP



PTSA

Meeker Middle School PTSA

everychild.onevoice

12600 192nd Avenue Street; Renton, WA 98058

PTSA-Presidents Suzette Willmore 253-852-6797 and

Mariann Kallaher mariannh@kallaher.org

Membership Chair: Melanie Mitchell

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Community Members,

PTSA is a non-profit volunteer association that seeks to unite the home, school, and community on behalf of children and youth. The PTSA at Meeker sponsors several programs and committees including Meeker Responders, Book Fair, Staff Appreciation and an 8th grade party celebration to name just a few. The PTSA also provides a voice in the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly, participates in the National PTA Reflections program, and provides support to our school and community. PTSA news and information can be found in the monthly Meeker Middle School newsletter that can be found online at www.kent.k12.wa.us/ksd/MK/newsletters.htm

To join PTSA, complete the information below and return with the appropriate dues (checks payable to Meeker PTSA). Send this form with your student, put in the school PTSA mailbox or mail directly to Meeker MS PTSA.

Thank you for supporting our PTSA. Take advantage of our newest member benefit and receive weekly Meeker Morning Announcements via email for members who provide an email address. Join the Meeker PTSA and help unite our youth's learning community!

Membership Dues: \$14.00 adult member

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

e-mail _____

PTSA member at Meeker last year! _____ Yes _____ No

Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children. PTSA, student and school activities want and need your help! Please mark any of the following activities that you would be interested in providing a helping hand and return to Meeker PTSA.

- After School Activities
- Band
- Book Fair
- Choir
- Field Trip Chaperones
- Financial Reviews of PTSA books
January & July
- Fundraising
- Health Room Volunteer
- Meeker Responders
- Membership
- Orchestra
- Spirit Sale
- Staff Appreciation
(staff lunches)
- Volunteer Coordinator
- 8th grade Party

Meeker PTSA Reflections Winners

Reflections is a national arts recognition and achievement program designed to provide an opportunity for students to create and be recognized for original works of art based on a pre-selected theme. The theme for 2009-2010 was

“Beauty is...”

The following students received awards at Meeker and were recognized at

Kent Area Council on January 8th, 2010:

Kyler Blanken – Musical Composition 1st place

Noah Correia – Literature 1st place

Claudia Harrison – Visual Art 1st, 2nd, 3rd place

Rachel Willmore – Photography 1st, 2nd place

After School Activity

Leadership, with the assistance of the Meeker PTSA, is planning an after school activity on January 29th from 3:00pm – 5:00pm.

Come out and have some fun with your friends!

To attend the after school activity, you must be level free and have transportation home following the activity – there is no longer an activity bus at Meeker.

Entertainment Book Fundraiser

Entertainment Book sales have come to a close. Thank you to all those that purchased Entertainment books. Unfortunately, we did not achieve our fundraising goal, but the Entertainment company did provide a book for each of our hardworking staff members.

The iPod shuffle drawing went toAnthony Williams. Congratulations Anthony!

No Cost Fundraiser- Jamba Juice School Appreciation Card

A Jamba Juice School Appreciation Card will be sent home with your student. You may also request additional cards for family, friends, and co-workers. **There is no cost to you!** If you do not want this card simply have your student return it to the Meeker office.

How it works: Just swipe your School Appreciation Card when you make a purchase at any participating Jamba Juice store and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to Meeker PTSA. It's that simple! The more you're sippin', the more Jamba Juice is givin'.

Many Thanks to our Volunteers

Many thanks to Alberta Jones , Anna Nosarzewski , Carmelee Midkiff, Debbie Germer, Janet Anjaz, Kimberly Flesher , and Traci Hancock. These great volunteers helped the Vision and Hearing Screening in December run smoothly.

Be Sure to Vote!

The Kent School Board at their November 18th meeting approved two levy issues to present to the voters in an election to be held February 9, 2010. The first is a replacement Educational Programs and Operations levy. If voters approve, this would renew the current levy that provides nearly 20% of the total funding for the District. (The state provides 64.6% and federal funds just over 12%). The second issue is a replacement Technology levy. If voters approve, these funds will maintain the district's technology maintenance schedule for classrooms and libraries, ensuring students and staff will have access to adequate tools for modern curriculums.

Setting clear expectations for your middle schooler is key

Don't make your middle schooler guess what you expect from him. Spell it out! When it comes to setting expectations for your middle schooler:

- Be precise. "Clean the basement" might mean totally different things to you and your middle schooler, so make your instructions clear. "Please put your video games away, bring your dirty plate upstairs and vacuum the rug."
- Give a time frame. Attach a very specific time frame to chores. "I need you to empty the dishwasher within the next 15 minutes." It may help avoid foot-dragging on your middle schooler's part.
- Get his input. Your preteen isn't a little kid anymore, so don't treat him like one. Whenever possible, let him put in his two cents when it comes to the house rules. For instance, has he been insisting that he's old enough for a later bedtime? He may be right.
- Trust him. Respect your middle schooler by assuming he'll do what he's told. (In other words, don't hover as he works.) If he falls short again and again, you may need to supervise more closely. But if he does well? Honor him with some breathing room.
- Offer praise. Is your middle schooler doing a great job following the rules and pitching in? Let him know!

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Communication, common sense lead to your child's online safety

Your preteen may be a whiz when it comes to surfing the Internet, but that doesn't mean he's an expert at keeping himself safe online. In fact, his "super surfing skills" might lead him to think he's safer than he really is. And that's where you come in.

Take time to talk with your middle schooler about staying safe online, and don't feel intimidated because he knows more about how the computer works. You're the adult, and you know more about how the world works.

To help your middle schooler stay safe when he's online:

- Enforce some rules. Are chat rooms off-limits? If so, make sure your preteen knows. Is he forbidden from visiting fee-based sites? Make that clear. Establish serious consequences if your child breaks the rules.
- Talk about the dangers. Don't assume your preteen knows the pitfalls of sharing too much information online. Speak with him about keeping all of his personal information private. Also, remind him that "stranger danger" applies online, too.
- Trust, but verify. Tell your preteen that inappropriate sites are forbidden, but also block them with parental-control software.
- Be aware of his online life. Does your preteen have a MySpace or Facebook account? That may be fine--as long as he's not keeping it secret.
- Don't allow the computer in your preteen's bedroom. He's less likely to get into trouble if he's surfing the Internet in the living room or kitchen.

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COUNSELING CORNER-continued

Expect your middle schooler to remain a part of the family

Middle school is often the age of the closed door. Your once-affectionate child wants to be alone much of the time.

This behavior reflects that your child is growing up and becoming a separate person. You should respect it, but at the same time never let your child lose sight of the fact that he is part of a family. Privacy is fine, but total separation from the family is not. Consider these guidelines:

- Insist your child spend most of his time at home. Two evenings a week is plenty of time with friends.
- Keep TVs and computers in family areas. Having one in his bedroom gives your child more reason to separate himself.
- Grant your child leeway when it comes to family activities. Allow him to sometimes opt out, but make it clear there are other times when he will have to come along.
- Consider letting your child bring a friend to spend time with your family. Discuss this in advance so he knows that this is an occasional treat.

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Reinforcing Learning

Show your child how to use time more wisely

You have experienced a semester of the many demands of middle school. The second semester can be even busier than the first. Using time wisely is essential. Your child should resolve to do so and you can help. Encourage your child to:

- Expand use of planners. Your child should already be writing down all her assignments, upcoming tests and due dates. Have her consider adding study schedules in her planner.
- Practice saying no. Your child can't accept every invitation or volunteer for every event and stay on top of her schoolwork. Using time wisely means sometimes responding with, "Thanks for thinking of me, but I have too much on my plate right now."
- Take a different approach for tests. Just one time, have your child agree to study 20 minutes a night for one week, instead of waiting until the night before the test. Discuss the difference in how she used her time, and what the result was.

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MEEKER GRADING TIMELINE

SEMESTER 1 ENDS	FEB. 5
MID-QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT	MAR. 10
QUARTER 3 ENDS	APR. 15
MID-QUARTER 4 PROGRESS REPORT	MAY 19
SEMESTER 2 ENDS	JUN. 18

GRADING SCALE

Grade Mark	% Grade Value High	% Grade Value Low	GPA
A	100	93	4.0
A-	92.99	90	3.7
B+	89.99	88	3.3
B	87.99	82	3.0
B-	81.99	80	2.7
C+	79.99	78	2.3
C	77.99	72	2.0
C-	71.99	70	1.7
D+	69.99	67	1.3
D	66.99	60	1.0
F	59.99	0	0.0



OPT-IN MAILING

2009-2010 Meeker Parent Newsletter

Mail Opt-In Request Form

I request a mailed copy of the monthly parent newsletter:

PLEASE PRINT

Parent name: _____

Student name: _____

Address: _____

Complete this form and return to the Meeker Middle School Main Office.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 7 | Laptop Parent Information Meeting-8:40 am-Meeker Library |
| January 13 | Late Start-11:05 am (busses pick up 2-1/2 hours later than normal);
Season 2 Sports Assembly |
| January 15 | Martin Luther King Assembly-Matsiko Children's Choir |
| January 18 | Martin Luther King Observance-No School |
| January 29 | PTSA After School Activity-3:00 pm-5:00 pm-(no transportation available) |
| February 3 | Late Start-11:05 am (busses pick up 2-1/2 hours later than normal) |